

Policy Type: **Foundation**

Policy Number: **F-5**

Policy Title: **Intellectual Freedom Policy**

Policy Approved: November 2025
Effective: January 2026 - December 2028

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The Intellectual Freedom Policy articulates the Windsor Public Library Board's support of intellectual freedom and public access to information.

2. SCOPE

2.1 The Windsor Public Library Board within the meaning of the *Public Libraries Act R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44* provides governance and management of public library services in Windsor.

2.2 The Windsor Public Library Board recognizes and endorses the *Municipal Freedom-of-Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*, *Copyright Act*, *Canadian Criminal Code*, *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, *Ontario Human Rights Code*, *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, *Accessibility Standards for Customer Service*, and the *Integrated Accessibility Standards*.

2.3 The Windsor Public Library Board endorses the *OLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Rights of the Individual*, *IFLA Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom*, *OLA Children's Rights in the Public Library* and *OLA Teen Rights in the Library* statements.

2.4 The Windsor Public Library Board recognizes and endorses the Operating Agreement of December 9, 2015, and the Amending Agreement of March 21, 2017, with The Corporation of the City of Windsor.

3. POLICY

3.1 The Windsor Public Library Board and staff support and advocate for intellectual freedom which is defined as "the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction."

3.2 It is the responsibility of the Windsor Public Library Board and staff to:

- a) Ensure that all customers have the fundamental right to access all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity.
- b) Guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some individuals may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable.
- c) Make available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups.
- d) Resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities, while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

3.3 The Windsor Public Library Board directs the CEO to ensure that the principles of intellectual freedom are integrated into all policies, procedures and practices.